GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6120
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Recruitment of Children by Naxalites
Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Naxalites of the Communist Party of India (Maoist) recruit and indoctrinate children as part of their strategy for mass mobilisation for intelligence gathering, carrying food and arms and serving extortion notes and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Maoists lure inmates of children welfare hostels run by the Government;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the estimated number of children deployed in the ranks of Maoists, State-wise;

(d) the strategy adopted by the Government to prevent children from associating with left wing extremists; and

(e) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs is coordinating with the Ministry of Women and Child Development to provide counselling to the students of welfare hostels regarding the difficulties that lie ahead if they join Maoists and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a): Yes, the Government is aware that the Left Wing Extremists in the States of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha recruit young children from time to time. In Bihar and Jharkhand, these children are enrolled in 'Bal
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Dasta' and in Chhattisgarh and Odisha the children's squad is known as 'Bal Sangham'. These minors are imparted military training besides being utilised for collecting information for the Maoists.

(b)&(c): The Left Wing Extremists target children in general which may also include children in welfare hostels. The number of such children cannot be ascertained.

(d): The Central Government has been pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to deal with Left Wing Extremism, centered around security related measures, developmental interventions and ensuring rights & entitlements of local communities etc.

(e): The Ministry of Home Affairs regularly coordinates with the Ministry of Women & Child Development for proper implementation of its schemes in the 35 most affected LWE districts.

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